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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 8

May 2, 1942

ARKANSAS (April 27).---Entire Extension staff placed on wartime basis at beginning of year, when Food-for-Victory Campaign was launched. Live-at-home program intensified to secure production of vital foods for war needs. More emphasis on better nutrition production of basic food crops, peanuts and soybeans for commercial oil.

A major activity was leader training for members of home demonstration and 4-H Clubs, farm organizations, agricultural planning committees, to carry out all phases of program. 51,198 leaders - farm men, women, older boys and girls - given special training or information at 3,892 meetings. Community and neighborhood delineation maps made for each county by agents cooperating with local farm people. At least 1 man and 1 woman from each neighborhood designated minutemen for duration of war to aid in organizing and directing war efforts of farm people. 1,959 meetings to train minutemen attended by 16,216. Extension, with this organization, can reach every farm family in State with important information in shortest possible time.

Minutemen enrolled 124,275 families (about 60 percent of State farm population) in Food-for-Victory campaign. 4,168 white farm families enrolled in Plant-to-Prosper contest; 11,083 Negro farm families in Live-at-Home competition, both sponsored by a Memphis newspaper, Extension Service and other agricultural agencies cooperating.

Agents attended 395 civilian defense council meetings to help salvage collections, Victory Gardens, sale of war bonds and stamps, nutrition and health campaigns, Red Cross nutrition classes, first aid, air-raid precautions. Agents attended 640 meetings on growing peanuts and soybeans, scrap collection, farm-machinery repair.

Agents devoted 3,150 days to holding 4,583 educational meetings attended by 139,760, and assisting 103,264 farm families with Victory Gardens.

Gave 531 days to marketing problems of poultry, dairy and canning products, sweetpotatoes, other perishables; 519 method demonstrations (grading, packing, preserving), attendance, 12,976. Assisted 460 organized groups (membership, 13,517) and 4,209 individuals in marketing eggs, milk, poultry, cream, hogs, cattle, and truck crops.

68,069 4-H members enrolled in projects vital to war effort. Club members lead neighborhood collection strategic materials. Organize and present patriotic programs for greater production effort. Groups pledged to assist in civilian defense and purchase of war bonds and stamps.

466 nutrition committee meetings attended by home demonstration agents; plans made to reach greatest number of farm families. 538 cooking schools held, attendance 11,246; 153 nutrition classes for leadership training; enrollment 2,386; 169 nutrition centers, 7,137 persons requested information. Agents taught 38 Red Cross classes, enrollment 626; 203 on consumer interest and nutrition, enrollment 6,203; information and guidance given to 851 schools serving hot lunches to 93,342 children.

789 meetings on care and repair farm machinery attended by 26,081 farm men and women. Many farm repair shops set up on neighborhood basis for all types farming tools and equipment. 27,362 tons of scrap materials collected. Production program impeded by farm-labor shortage; unstable prices, especially commodities; mounting feed prices; farm-machinery shortages (especially peanut-picking equipment); transportation problems caused by tire rationing; nitrogenous fertilizer and certain planting seed shortage.

HAWAII (April 17) -- Home demonstration agents concentrating on food production, preparation, preservation, conservation. Emphasis on more home gardens, emergency uses of coconuts, food substitutes, evacuation food kits, proper nutrition. Families helped to adjust themselves to shortages of food and household articles, gasoline rationing, blackout ventilation, evacuation planning. Home gardens larger, more diversified; more home canning than ever before. Interest in home production of ducks, rabbits, chickens.

County agents giving greatest attention to production and marketing problems. Transportation facilities pooled for shipping fresh produce to market. County agents check observance of rules. Gasoline allotment of noncooperative farmers and dealers curtailed. Agents' offices are clearing houses for farmers seeking information, seeds, insecticide permits, gasoline coupons, permits to buy tires and tubes. Sugar plantations providing employees with garden space for home food production under extension agents' direction. Civilian defense groups assisted in growing seedlings for community distribution.

Director Warner administering civilian food importation. Normally Hawaii imports 75 percent of its food; now cargo space used mostly for war supplies. Food imports authorized only by permits issued by Director, who determines essential foods for small space available.

Crop specialist made territorial seed inventory, helped in making military order for control of insecticides and fungicides, obtained national park land for pasture to increase food production, gives instruction in home gardening.

Extension poultry husbandmen urging more rabbits and Muscovy ducks because they do not need imported feed. Studying wartime problems of dairy industry, caused by feed shortage and reduced gasoline allotment for deliveries.

ILLINOIS (April 22).--Extension staff directed to apply to every activity and project in its program the test, "Does it contribute to the prosecution of the war?"

4-H program redirected to emphasize Victory Garden on each farm, 4-H litter contest, production of more pork, eggs, milk, by following recommended feeding and management practices. More use made of press and radio; entire extension information program focused on Food-for-Freedom goals.

Extension committee on impacts of war meets weekly. Furthers cooperation between vocational agriculture teachers and extension workers in educational phases of war program. Determines substitutes for crops and materials cut off by war. Reviews production goals for 1943, considering needs and methods. Considers insect and rodent control measures. grain and soybean storage problems, inventory of sawmills and native lumber sources to meet needs for building materials, combines in State to care for increased soybean acreage, rural fire control and accident prevention program.

In Victory Garden project nearly 100,000 adult enrollment cards received from 101 of 102 counties in State. Special circular material and 4-H Victory Garden folder prepared and distributed. Urban people being reached.

Eight Food-for-Freedom district conferences of farm advisers brought out following: Most farmers to exceed State production goals in 1942 except for some canning crops. Farm advisers held series of local meetings, down to school district level, sent every farmer special letters and circulars. Efforts concentrated in developing complete organization by August 1. Farm people reported 100 percent behind war production and Food-for-Freedom program, local leaders more responsive than ever. However some farmers overexpanded production of soil-depleting and erosion-developing crops.

Committee on coordination of extension programs working on procedures for carrying out Secretary Wickard's charge to Extension. Plan presented at district conferences of farm advisers and submitted to State Agricultural Planning Council and State War Board. Organization to be on State, county, township, school district levels. Schools to be held to train local leaders and supervisors. Program will emphasize conservation practices and good land use over 5-year period. State will be divided into supervisory districts based on type-of-farming areas.

MAINE (April 20).--Victory Garden conferences held every county, attended by representatives Farm Bureaus, Granges, garden clubs, schools, county, State, and Federal governmental agencies. Program adopted every county. 40,000 "Gardens for Victory" publication, containing food guide, planting table, vegetable list, distributed.

Clinics and farm machinery repair demonstrations held throughout State. Meetings with county war board chairmen and implement dealers in four larger machine repair distributing centers. Check sheet listing important parts most commonly used machines sent 15,000 farmers.

Assisted USDA War Board in certifying canners and working for increased production all canning vegetables. All pea canners now certified. Providing data for BAE planning section concerning 1943 production goals. Furnishing economic information for farmers all commodity groups.

Training classes in home improvement and upkeep being held 11 counties. Local leaders encouraging families in their communities to have a maintenance plan for home improvement. Check sheet provided for planning such items as cleaning attic, cleaning cellar, repairing equipment, checking chimneys.

Monthly circular "Victory Chats for Farm Families" prepared for use all families. Gives practical suggestions and timely information on adjustments necessary and ways to meet situations imposed by war conditions.

OHIO (April 20).--Entire extension staff of State requested by Director Ramsower to put themselves on wartime basis, to put aside for duration of war all projects not contributing to immediate national welfare, to plan work with least expenditure of materials and time. Because of the tire situation meetings requiring long drives by rural people and extension staff abandoned. Important information for farm people will be sent from extension headquarters through county agents to local leader in each neighborhood who will be responsible for relaying it to his neighbors at meeting places within walking distance. Radio and newspapers will cooperate for fullest distribution. War Board to examine informational material.

Farm labor survey in one county showed need for extra help to work 37,000 days in harvesting in 1942; 1 out of each 6 farmers expects to lose part of the help he now has.

Dairy production goals likely to be reached, but fluid milk consumption not up to expectations. In spite of increased pay rolls and larger milk supply, city people are not consuming quantity needed for adequate diets.